DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 3-17-81
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE 2/10/79
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

OCS

2059

PLAN FOR BURIAL OF GUYANA DEAD

In response to the order of the Superior Court, the Guyana Emerency Committee, representing the Archdiocese of the Catholic Church, the Board of Rabbis, and the San Francisco Council of Churches, offers the following data and plan for the burial of those who died in Jonestown, Guyana.

Our recommendations are based on the following criteria:

1. The concern of the religious community is that a plan be followed which will help survivors, relatives and the community to work through their grief, despair, hopelessness, fear and anger, so that all may return to a productive and meaningful life. The peace and psychological health of our City depends on it. Therefore, we are convinced that "cost" factors -- while important -- should not be primary. Rather, that should be most important which accomplishes, as best as possible the resolution of this catastrophe.

2. While "cremation" would be far less expensive, especially if done in Delaware, and a few individuals may request this method, our Committee is not recommending mass cremation. In fact, we are convinced that authorizing a plan of cremation would not solve our problems, but only agravate them. Because most of the victims are Black, we feel we must reflect the thinking of that community, which weighs extremely heavy the experience of the burial of their dead to work through their grief. Honoring a proper burial is crucial for these people and cremation would only add to their despair and create an anger that could explode. As one grandmother said again and again, "I hope they bury my grandchildren nearby, because I might not know which grave is theirs -- as they haven't been able to identify them --, but I'll know they're out there and I can go to the cemetery and know they are there."

3. We believe that People's Temple money should be primarily responsible for burying their dead. Many of these people who died in Jonestown, as well as a number of survivors, gave up their property and income for that church. That church, through its assets, should return at least enough to guarantee a proper burial for its followers. We consider this a primary responsibility of Peoples' Temple.

4. Finally, we who represent the religious community, desire that the relatives and survivors of this tragedy, as well as others affected by it, continue to live and worship in this City with as few scars as possible from this experience. For this reason we are concerned that arrangements are made that utilize reputable services which refrain from commercializing on the situation. We would hope that those services are used in which the relatives would find a comfortable and comforting experience -- preferably also from the community or relating well with the community.

Need new page

Social Service

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...RELIEF COMMITTEE

...S O'CONNOR

...RTATION OF THE GUYANA VICTIMS BODIES BACK TO THE BAY AREA

...is an updated report. The report I submitted on January 30, 1979,

...IONAL AIRWAYS:

...be able to move the bodies on two cargo jets, on six flights over ...
...The total projected cost is $139,177. However, this does not ...
...g at Dover, which TIA expects will be performed by the Air Force, ...
...nsportation in Oakland to the storage facility. Contact person is ...
...s - 577-6200.

...S:

...ace transport in Oakland, United expects to be able to perform the ...
...830. However, it is not clear whether this includes loading in ...
...ave not yet been able to clarify this. Contact person is ...
...tems - 876-3302.

...UNERAL DIRECTOR:

...ace transport from Dover, funeral arrangements and burial, Mr. Fuller ...
...tal cost of $497,170. Of this amount, the transportation component ...

...ave examined the following additional ground transportation, companies ...

...remains from Philadelphia to San Francisco and not including any trans- ...
...er to Philadelphia, or from San Francisco to Oakland, Amtrak's estimate ...
...r casket, a total of $97,547. Contact is Mr. Bell at 556-5755 or ...
...t (202) 383-2065. ...

UKIAH AND LOS ANGELES

a) One Mortician in Ukiah has idincated his willingness to perform burial services for $250 per body. Transportation extra would be ———

b) Long Beach Colonial Mortuary in Southern California has been contacted by Mr. Paul Fuller and has agreed to the same service and costs as the other Bay Area morticians. Transportation to the Los Angeles area would cost———

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the criteria outlined above be very seriously considered in determining what money is made available and how the Guyana dead are buried. To transport the bodies to the Bay Area seems to only be determined by cost and assurance of performance, ~~although we would prefer air transportation.~~ We would recommend the use of those morticians from the community who are reputable, able to best communicate with the families, and do so at a reasonable cost. The Black morticians listed in Mr. Fuller's plan seem to fulfill this criteria, although we would not be opposed to the use of the 27 morticians of San Francisco who met with our representative. Most cemeteries mentioned offer reduced rates. Concern must be centered about obtaining a cemetery for the mass burial of the unidentified and unclaimed. The Court may see fit to approve of -

a) a Transportation plan for all bodies....Approximately $140,000.

b) a set amount for claimed bodies to provide minimum service, and provide the information and relatives make the choice. Suggest approximately $500..approximately $175,000.

c) a plan for mass burial and graveside services approximately $ 85,000.

The Committee has been in direct contact with the State Department and other governmental agencies and will gladly share the information obtained -- such as the problem of death certificates. Presumptive death certificates for the unidentified had not been processed as of the writing of this Plan. It should also be noted that some of the above costs, especially for the claimed could be reduced by seeking Social Security death benefits and insurances, etc.

MATTER OF REIMBURSEMENT

The final request of the Committee is that the Court approve reimbursing those families who already have seen to the burial of their dead. Most of them had to borrow and go deep in debt to accomplish such a burial. We should not penalize those families who didn't wait until the Court acted to provide costs. (In addition, we firmly believe that much of the money from these people was taken by Peoples' Temple unjustly.) Thus justice and fairness would be served. ~~Such a minimum amount would be approximately $750 per body, or approximately $230,250.~~

Finally, the Guyana Relief Committee will work with the Courts in every way possible to assist in bringing about an equitable plan for the burial of the dead. A number of the Pastors related to the Council of Churches has already been busy counseling many families and will continue to offer such services. We will encourage the clergy serving these families at the funerals, to do so without charge. We are very grateful for the Court's consideration of our request and we are very impressed at the humane approach it has shown. God Bless You.

catholic social service

A United Way Agency

2555 MAYER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94117
(415) 387-8200

February 8, 1979

TO: EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMITTEE

FROM: FR. JOHN O'CONNOR

RE: TRANSPORTATION OF THE GUYANA VICTIMS BODIES BACK TO THE BAY AREA

The following is an updated report. The report I submitted on January 30, 1979, was as follows:

"TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS:

TIA expects to be able to move the bodies on two cargo jets, on six flights over two weekends. The total projected cost is $139,177. However, this does not include loading at Dover, which TIA expects will be performed by the Air Force, or surface transportation in Oakland to the storage facility. Contact person is Mr. Gene Ehlers - 577-6200.

UNITED AIRLINES:

Including surface transport in Oakland, United expects to be able to perform the task for $137,830. However, it is not clear whether this includes loading in Dover, and I have not yet been able to clarify this. Contact person is Ms. Nicole Gattens - 876-3302.

PAUL FULLER, FUNERAL DIRECTOR:

Including surface transport from Dover, funeral arrangements and burial, Mr. Fulle estimated a total cost of $497,170. Of this amount, the transportation component is $209,650."

Since then I have examined the following additional ground transportation, compan and bids:

AMTRAK:

Shipping the remains from Philadelphia to San Francisco and not including any tra port from Dover to Philadelphia, or from San Francisco to Oakland, Amtrak's estim is $162.85 per casket, a total of $97,547. Contact is Mr. Bell at 556-5755 or Tim Aufmuth at (202) 383-2064.

RE: John Wahl called to inform me that Gary Carmine (202-225-4165) from Congressman Evans, Del. office had called him with the following Amtrak bid and contact. He had been in touch with Mr. Schumacher from Amtrak (no telephone number) who quoted a price for transportation from the 30th Street Station in Philadelphia to San Francisco of $105.00 for an adult and $86.40 for infants. The total cost for 582 bodies would therefore be $60,159.50. As of this writing, Mr. Schumacher was to get back to me with the cost of transportation from Dover to Philadelphia.

It should also be noted that Amtrak cannot move more than five bodies per regularly scheduled train, and this obviously creates a scheduling bottleneck in terms of moving the remains from Dover to Philadelphia. (OVER 100 CARS)

CHESEPEAKE TRANSPORT:

Truck transportation from Dover to Oakland at a total cost of $175.00 per coffin, or $104,825 for 599 bodies. Contact is Mr. Friedman at (301) 799-4000.

ALL STATES TRUCKING:

In checking around, this was the lowest estimate I could obtain. This company in Newark offered a "ball-park estimate" of about $19,500. This estimate assumed 6 full trailers between Dover and Oakland, assumed casket proportions of 84" x 18" x 24", and assumed they needed to be shipped in refrigerated trailers. They say caution, however, that paperwork must be carried out by us or the government; a permit for transporting each body will be needed for each state they pass through.

As regards timing, All States indicated all the bodies could be moved within a week. Amtrak indicates it cannot move more than five bodies per regularly scheduled train, and this obviously creates a scheduling bottleneck in terms of moving the remains from Dover to Philadelphia.

NOTE: As you will note all the bids are not exactly the same. The TIA, United and Paul Fuller bids were based on 599 bodies; the bid from Mr. Bell and Mr. Ehrmuth of Amtrak was for 599 bodies, whereas, the Schumacher was for 582 bodies. The Chesepeake Transport and All States Trucking were for 582 bodies.

We need to know the size of the coffins for the All States Trucking contract as noted. Also, for that contract, we would have to get clearance for across-state transport.

We welcome any further suggestions as to how you feel I should move from this time forward.

JO'C/pc

Need proof

#33

Ask Alan at ICC whether permits required for transport if bodies are taking abo during transit? Yes, they are obtained

Four individual packages were submitted for consideration by the Guyana Emergency Relief Committee. The total estimated cost is for the total of 599 remains.

1. *Associated Funeral Directors, Inc.* PER BODY

Transportation from Dover by truck or rail, funeral director's service, cemetery lot ... Hidden Valley Cemetery Pachuca Total cost $240,000.00 $400.61

2. *Neptune Society*

Transportation by rail from Dover and interment at Evergreen cemetery ... Total cost $299,500.00 $500.00

3. *Finley Enterprises*

Transportation by truck or rail, funeral director's service, cemetery lot... Total cost $934,440.00 $1,560.00

4. *Paul R. Fullers*

Transportation from Dover by truck to Bay Area, funeral director's service, cemetery lot Total cost $435,310.00 $726.72

(TOTAL PACKAGE BIOS)

(PART-PACKAGES FOLLOW)

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ofessional Services - Plan 1

Removal from local airport or central storage facility, making and conducting funeral arrangements at the chapel, delivery to local cemetery.

Price Range	Minimum	to	Maximum
	$239.50		$430.00
For additional service add:			
1. Service at a local church	50.00		75.00
2. Family limousine	-		50.00

ofessional Services - Plan 2

Removal from lodal airport or central storage, direct to cemetery, conduct graveside service.

Price Range	100.00	225.00

ofessional Services - Plan 3

For unclaimed - direct removal from airport to cemetery.

Price Range	50.00	80.00

CEMETERY

Land, Liner, Endowment care, tax opening and closing of grave.

Single grave	265.00	675.00
(For Bay Area)	275.00	675.00
Double Depth Grave		
Price Range	450.00	1200.00
(For Bay Area)	495.00	1200.00

COMPLETE SERVICE AND BURIAL COSTS

Composite 1 - Maximum Service

Removal from airport, making and conducting funeral arrangements, use of chapel, delivery to church, there to cemetery in bay area. (Includes family car).

Minimum	289.50	
Add: Cemetery minimum	275.00	
TOTAL		$564.00
Maximum	555.00	
Add: Cemetery maximum	675.00	
TOTAL		$ 1230.00

Composite 2 - Medium Service

Removal from airport, making and conducting funeral arrangements, service at the church, or the chapel, or the graveside (but only one), delivery to bay area cemetery, including family car.

Minimum	239.50	
Add: Cemetery minimum	275.00	
TOTAL		514.50
Maximum	505.00	
Add: Cemetery maximum	675.00	
TOTAL		$1180.00

Composite 3 - Minimum Service

Removal from airport, direct transport to bay area cemetery with graveside service.

Minimum	55.00	
Add: Cemetery minimum	275.00	
TOTAL		330.00
Maximum	100.00	
Add: Cemetery maximum	675.00	
TOTAL		775.00

FOR THE UNCLAIMED

Composite 4 -

Removal from the airport, direct transport to bay area cemetery (no individual memorial).

Minimum	50.00	
Add: Cemetery minimum	275.00	
TOTAL		325.00
Maximum	75.00	
Add: Cemetery maximum	675.00	
TOTAL		750.00

If identified, there should be markers

Need
new pg

Mr Wall has 4 more packages

Need:

(1) Affidavit by mortician society president, or attorney, tha services will be offered for #540.00, max (Oppo services and interment

(2) Affidavit by Skylaw Cemetery (as part of (1), al for their part

(3) Affidavit, or bid, f trucker